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Photo by Todd Berenger

Keeping fit

VOLUME

NUMBER

Wing leadership, including Col. Hank Andrews (center), 377th Air Base Wing commander and Col. Steven Bower (left), wing vice commander, take the mile and a half run portion of the

new Air Force fitness assessment Jan. 8. Earlier, the leaders took abdominal circumference measurements as well as completed their push-up and sit-up requirements.

DOD gathers BRAC information

BY K.L. VANTRAN

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (AFPN)–Base commanders in the United States and its territories and possessions have been asked to gather data on their installations in preparation for the 2005 round of base realignments and closures, DOD officials said Jan. 6.

The fiscal 2002 National Defense Authorization Act authorized the DOD to pursue one BRAC round in 2005. The department will use BRAC to eliminate unnecessary infrastructure and to increase military capability and effectiveness, officials said.

Formal data calls, officials said, ensure the department collects and uses the most current data on installations throughout the BRAC analysis. This data call is one of many steps in the BRAC process, officials explained. Others will be added as needed.

Since each installation will take part in these data calls, officials emphasized that does not mean the DOD is considering that installation for closure or realignment. Questions and data associated with the questions will be available to the public once the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission receives

The department published draft selection criteria in the Dec. 23 Federal Register for public comment. Comments are due by Jan. 28. The list of BRAC recommendations will be submitted to the independent BRAC commission by May 16, 2005.

The Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-501, as amended by the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2002, requires that closure and

realignment recommendations be based on published criteria that make military value the primary consideration.

Military value criteria include:

★ Current and future mission capabilities and the impact on operational readiness of DOD's total force, including the impact on joint warfighting, training and readiness.

The availability and condition of land, facilities and associated airspace (including training areas suitable for maneuver by ground, naval or air forces throughout a diversity of climate and terrain areas and staging areas for the use of the armed forces in homeland defense missions) at both existing and potential receiving locations.

★ The ability to accommodate contingency, mobilization and future total-force requirements at both existing and potential receiving locations to support operations and training.

 \bigstar The cost of operations and the manpower implications.

Other considerations include:

- ★ The extent and timing of potential costs and savings, including the number of years, beginning with the date of completion of the closure or realignment, for the savings to exceed the costs.
- \bigstar The economic impact on existing communities in the vicinity of military installations.
- \bigstar The ability of both the existing and potential receiving communities' infrastructure to support forces, missions and personnel.
- ★ The environmental impact, including the impact of costs related to potential environmental restoration, waste management and environmental compliance activities.

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